

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

48

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Action

Control:
Rec'd:6810
JUNE 9, 1959
8:57 PMEUR
Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SP

NO: 1080, JUNE 9, 4 PM

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PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1080, PRIORITY BONN 964, GENEVA PRIORITY 91
 REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 313, LONDON 205, PARIS 250.

SENT POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED BY OTHER MEANS.

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND.

IN CONVERSATION LATE LAST NIGHT BRANDT TOLD ME THAT
 POSSIBILITY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS MAY NOT RPT NOT BE
 HELD IN BERLIN STILL WEIGHED HEAVILY ON HIS MIND.
 GERSTENMAIER HAS REQUESTED BRANDT SEE HIM BONN TODAY.
 IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SATURDAY GERSTENMAIER TOLD BRANDT
 HIS "INTENTIONS" RE HOLDING FED ASSEMBLY SESSION IN BERLIN
 UNCHANGED BUT EXPRESSED DOUBTS WHETHER HE ABLE CARRY THROUGH.
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RECEIVED BY BRANDT THROUGH UNNAMED
 INTERMEDIARY WAS THAT GERSTENMAIER HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF
 FED INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BUNDESNACHRICHTENDIENST) ACCORDING
 WHICH ZONAL AUTHORITIES PLANNING MEASURES AGAINST WEST
 BERLIN JULY 1 OR 2 IF FED ASSEMBLY CONVOKED HERE. THIS
 INFO TRANSMITTED TO GERSTENMAIER BEFORE EISLER UTTERED
 HIS THREATS (BERLIN'S 1060 DEPT, 946 BONN, 76 GENEVA).

BRANDT BELIEVES INTELLIGENCE REPORT BEING USED PUT PRESSURE
 ON GERSTENMAIER WITH IMPLICATION HE WOULD BE ACTING
 IRRESPONSIBLY IF FED ASSEMBLY CONVOKED IN BERLIN AND
 WARNING GIVEN PRIME MINISTER BRANDT CONVINCED IT WOULD BE
 GREAT MISTAKE TO WINCE BEFORE A BLOW IS STRUCK. HE BELIEVES
 FURTHERMORE THAT 1) IT UNCERTAIN WHETHER SOVS WOULD PERMIT
 EAST GERMANS TO GO SO FAR; 2) IF INTERFERENCE WITH
 TRAFFIC WERE TO TAKE PLACE WEST GERMANS WOULD HAVE GOOD
 OPPORTUNITY

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PERMANENT

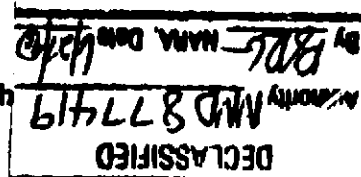
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-3- 1080, JUNE 9, 4 PM, FROM BERLIN

BRANDT SAID MOVING ELECTIONS FROM BERLIN WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY CAUSE SEVERE SHOCK AMONG GENERAL BERLIN PUBLIC BECAUSE MANY SEGMENTS OF POPULATION UNAWARE OF PRINCIPLES INVOLVED. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, IN LONG RUN DO PERNICIOUS DAMAGE BECAUSE IT WOULD CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT SLOW PROCESS OF SEVERING BERLIN FROM FEDREP HAD BEGUN. HE SAID HE HAD JUST COME FROM SPD EXECUTIVE MEETING IN WHICH ALL PRESENT HAD AGREED ON THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY GRAVE DANGER RE YIELDING ON WHAT ARE ONLY SURMISALS OF POSSIBLE SOV OR EAST GERMAN MOVES.

ON SOCIAL OCCASION FRIDAY FED REPRESENTATIVE VOCKEL, WHO ENJOYS ADENAUER'S FULL CONFIDENCE AND IS TRUSTED CDU MEMBER, TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE UNABLE UNDERSTAND EFFORTS PERSUADE GERSTENMAIER HOLD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ELSEWHERE. VOCKEL CITED MORE OR LESS SAME REASONS AS BRANDT SAYING PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY FED REPRESENTATIVES COULD NOT BE CALLED PROVOCATORY BY ANY STRETCH OF IMAGINATION AND THAT YIELDING ON THIS POINT WOULD BE FATAL AFTER NUMEROUS ANNOUNCEMENTS RE BERLIN MEETING HAD BEEN MADE. HE FEELS THAT WITHOUT BONN CONTROVERSY COMMUNISTS WOULD HAVE NEVER SEIZED ON THIS ISSUE.

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